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General and complete disarmament

Pakistan: draft resolution

Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003 entitled "Prevention of armed conflict", in which it calls upon Member States to settle their disputes by peaceful means, as set out in Chapter VI of the Charter, inter alia, by any procedures adopted by the parties, including the most effective use of the International Court of Justice,

Recalling the Security Council resolutions relating to the prevention of armed conflict, and noting all Security Council presidential statements related to this matter,

Considering the importance and effectiveness of confidence-building measures taken at the initiative and with the participation of all States concerned, and taking into account the specific characteristics of each region, since such measures can contribute to regional stability,

Convinced that resources released by disarmament, including regional disarmament, can be devoted to economic and social development and to the protection of the environment for the benefit of all peoples, in particular those of the developing countries,

Recognizing the need for meaningful dialogue in the regions of tension to avert conflict,

Welcoming the peace processes already initiated by regions to resolve their disputes through peaceful means bilaterally or through mediation by third parties, regional organizations or the United Nations,

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Recognizing that some regions have already taken steps towards confidence-building measures at the bilateral, subregional and regional levels in the political and military fields, including arms control and disarmament, and noting that such measures have immensely improved peace and security in those regions and have resulted in rapid progress in the socio-economic conditions of their people,

Concerned that the continuation of disputes among States, particularly in the absence of an effective mechanism to resolve them through peaceful means, may contribute to the arms race and endanger the maintenance of international peace and security and the efforts of the international community to promote arms control and disarmament,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to refrain from the use or threat of use of force in the settlement of disputes;

2. *Reaffirms* its commitment to the peaceful settlement of disputes under Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations, which calls for the peaceful settlement of disputes, in particular Article 33, which provides for a solution by negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements or other peaceful means chosen by the parties;

3. *Calls upon* Member States that have not already done so to open consultations and dialogue in the regions of tension and conflict without preconditions;

4. *Urges* strict compliance with bilateral, regional and international arms control and disarmament agreements to which the contending States are parties;

5. *Urges also*, in the context of confidence-building measures, the maintenance of military balance between States in the regions of tension and conflict in the acquisition, development and deployment of conventional and strategic weapon systems;

6. *Encourages* the promotion of bilateral and regional confidence-building measures to avoid conflict and prevent the unintended and accidental outbreak of hostilities;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consult with the States of the regions concerned in order to ascertain their views on the issue and to promote consultations among them with a view to exploring the best possibilities for furthering efforts towards confidence-building measures in the regions of tensions;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report on the subject to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session an item entitled "Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context".